

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 ICA-11 PA-01 INR-05 NSC-05  
CIAE-00 NSAE-00 EB-04 PM-03 SP-02 EUR-08 PPT-01  
CA-01 DODE-00 H-01 L-01 /064 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:RGRICH:FLW  
APPROVED BY EA - MR. GLEYSSTEEN  
-----059361 261649Z /72

P 261616Z APR 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 106254

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, KS, US

SUBJECT: RESPONDING TO THE KOREAN MOOD

REF: SEOUL 3318

1. YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO TRY TO STIMULATE A FULLER  
APPRECIATION OF OUR POSITION THROUGH AN INTERVIEW OR PRESS  
BRIEFING AS YOU SEE FIT. YOUR OWN PREFERENCE FOR AN  
EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH AN AMERICAN REPORTER DOES SEEM  
MORE LIKELY TO PROMOTE ACCURACY.

2. THE PRINCIPAL PROBLEMS SEEM TO BE THE INCORRECT  
LINKAGES AND ASSUMPTIONS BEING MADE IN THE KOREAN PRESS.  
WE HOPE THE KAL INCIDENT AND THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO  
MODIFY THE SCHEDULE FOR WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. COMBAT TROOPS  
WILL HELP ALLEVIATE THIS AND PRODUCE A MORE POSITIVE  
ASSESSMENT OF OUR RELATIONSHIP.

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3. SOME SPECIFIC COMMENTS FOLLOW ON THE INDIVIDUAL TOPICS  
SUGGESTED IN YOUR MESSAGE:

(A) PING-PONG. THE DIFFERENCE HERE IS BASIC. THE U.S.-  
CHINA PING PONG ARRANGEMENT WAS BILATERAL IN NATURE AND  
SPECIFICALLY ARRANGED WITH GOVERNMENTAL ASSISTANCE.

THERE IS NO BILATERAL ASPECT TO THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED WORLD TOURNAMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL SPORTS FEDERATION, FOR WHICH PYONGYANG IS THE HOST IN 1979. THE LOCUS OF THE 1979 PING PONG TOURNAMENT HAS BEEN KNOWN (INCLUDING TO THE ROKG) SINCE SPRING 1977 WHEN THE LAST WORLD PING PONG CHAMPIONSHIPS WERE HELD IN BRIGHTON, ENGLAND. THE USTTA HAS REGULARLY PARTICIPATED IN THESE BIENNIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS. YOU SHOULD NOT CHARACTERIZE FACT THAT ROKG WAS NOT INFORMED BY USG AS AN "OVERSIGHT," BECAUSE WE DO NOT WISH TO ESTABLISH PRECEDENT OF INFORMING ROKG REGARDING INQUIRIES OF PRIVATE AMERICANS ABOUT TRAVEL TO NORTH KOREA. SINCE ELIMINATION OF U.S. PASSPORT CONTROLS ON TRAVEL DESTINATION IN MARCH 1977, THERE IS NO USG "DECISION" INVOLVED REGARDING PRIVATE U.S. CITIZEN TRAVEL TO NORTH KOREA AND WE BELIEVE SUGGESTING THAT WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO INFORM ROK CONCERNING PURELY PRIVATE INQUIRIES, FROM WHATEVER SOURCE, IS HIGHLY INAPPROPRIATE.

(B) TITO AND CEAUSESCU VISITS. ANY CHARACTERIZATION OF TITO OR CEAUSESCU CONVERSATIONS TO PRESS WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE. OBVIOUSLY YOU MAY STRESS THE AMERICAN POSITION, AND YOU MAY NOTE THAT THE U.S. STILL HAS NO RELIABLE INDICATION THAT THE DPRK HAS MODIFIED ITS UNWILLINGNESS TO SIT DOWN AT A CONFERENCE WITH FULL ROKG PARTICIPATION. THE BASIC PROBLEM FOR CONSTRUCTIVE  
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DIALOGUE THEREFORE REMAINS THE NORTH KOREAN UNWILLINGNESS TO TREAT WITH THE ROK AS AN EQUAL. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REPORTS, POLITICAL STABILITY, FOREIGN RELATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE106254  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** RGRICH:FLW  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780178-0768  
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**Office:** ORIGIN EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2840311  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RESPONDING TO THE KOREAN MOOD  
**TAGS:** PEPR, PINT, KS, US  
**To:** SEOUL  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/57b12fa7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
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